



◀ Karnes EC staff registers members for the meeting.

▶ Director Paul Brysch, left, honors Director Frank Geyer for 25 years of service to the co-op.



◀ Karnes EC General Manager Brad Bierstedt presents Elsie Retzloff with a flag honoring her late husband, Arlon Retzloff.



◀ Cecilia Moy, left, speaks with Karnes EC employee Donna Pawelek.

▶ Janet Scheffler congratulates Youth Tour winner Ashleigh Moody.

# Karnes EC Annual Meeting Brings Community Together

**EMIL AND MARY RAKOWITZ CAN'T SETTLE** on exactly how many years it's been, but both agree that they've been members of Karnes Electric Cooperative for nearly four decades.

It wasn't until last year, however, that the couple made it out to the co-op's annual membership meeting. That experience brought them back again this year.

"We really liked it, and it's nice to see people we know come out," Mary said. "He's a cattle buyer, and he was never home in time [for the meeting]. When he retired, we made our first meeting."

Emil was hooked: "I won an air compressor—and I really needed one."

The Rakowitzes joined 241 other members of Karnes EC along with dozens of other guests June 6 at the co-op's 78th annual membership meeting at Karnes City High School in

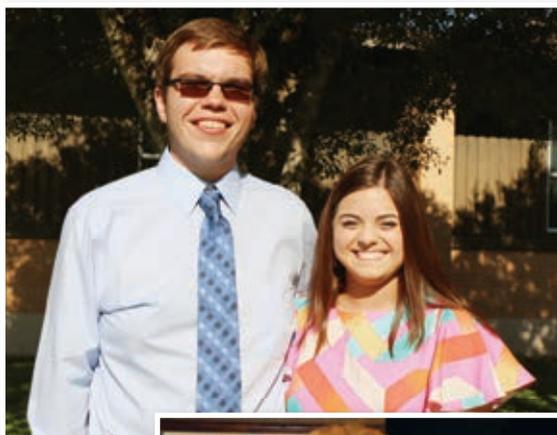
Karnes City to participate in the business of the cooperative, have a shot at winning one of a host of door prizes, and enjoy fellowship among friends, family and neighbors.

KEC Office Manager Janet Scheffler, a 43-year veteran of the meetings, said employees of the co-op look forward to the event each year because it gives them a chance to meet and greet members face to face.

"These meetings mean a lot to us," she said. "A lot of the members we know personally, but we also get to meet a lot of them for the first time [at the meetings], and we only get to see some of them once a year."

## Arlon Retzloff Honored

The meeting was dedicated to longtime Karnes EC Board President Arlon Retzloff, who died of cancer May 2, Vice Presi-



◀ Texas Electric Cooperatives scholarship recipients Nolan Janysek and Gabrielle Quintanilla

▼ Future Karnes EC members drew door prize winners' names from the spinning drum.



dent Paul T. Brysch Jr. said. A moment of silence was observed in Retzlöff's memory, and an empty seat was left onstage as a symbol of his absence.

"We lost a very dear friend and great cooperative leader," former KEC General Manager Leroy Skloss told attendees before presenting Arlon's wife, Elsie; son, Otto; and daughter, Karen, with a framed resolution adopted by the KEC board recognizing Retzlöff's work. "Arlon's heart was always with this co-op and the other boards that he was a part of. ... It was an honor to work for him."

Retzlöff served on the Karnes EC board for 38 years and led it as president for 25. He also sat on the board of South Texas Electric Cooperative, which provides power for KEC, for 25 years, including 10 years as its president. STEC GM Mike Kezar also presented the Retzlöffs with a framed acknowledgment.

"His leadership was key in leading the cooperative through some difficult circumstances—some explosive growth at the cooperative, new power plant construction and the addition of two distribution co-ops to the STEC family," Kezar said.

### Down to Business

One of the main functions of the annual meeting is the election

of directors by a quorum of members. Larry Schendel, District 1, and Martin R. Harris Jr., District 4, both were re-elected to three-year terms by the members.

The meeting also serves to inform members on the well-being of their co-op through reports. Secretary-Treasurer Schendel updated members on the effect that continued growth is having on the co-op's finances, and General Manager Brad Bierstedt informed members about ongoing projects and challenges.

Capital credits checks totaling \$749,369 were returned to the membership in September, Schendel said. The co-op's 2015 net margin totaled \$16.5 million, an increase of 33 percent over the previous year, helped along by a 3.4 percent increase in power sales that Schendel said was driven by oil and gas members.

"The increased margins will allow the cooperative to pay for our metering and maintenance projects without having to borrow money," Schendel said.

Bierstedt spoke to the threat posed by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, which could effectively end the use of coal-fired generation in the US. The Supreme Court has issued a temporary stay to halt implementation of the rules.



▲ Margaret Moczygamba wins a microwave.

▼ Henrietta Fenner goes home a winner.



“For the time being, the Supreme Court action was a victory for every American who pays an electric bill, and that includes each one of us here tonight,” Bierstedt said.

In his more than four years with the co-op, Bierstedt has seen tremendous growth, prompting the addition of 440 miles of distribution lines and seven new substations. The system set a record peak of 167 megawatts in 2015.

“We couldn’t have done this without the teamwork, hard work and dedication of our board, management, employees, South Texas Electric Cooperative, contractor crews and our members,” Bierstedt said.

Several employees and 25-year director Frank A. Geyer Jr. earned recognition for their years of service at the co-op. Justin Gray, Glenn Kelley and Sonya Sizemore reached the five-year mark, and Steve Jones was recognized for 15 years of work. Harvey Broll and Yolanda Lott each were honored for 20 years of service; and Brenda Biela, Tammy Labus and

Edwin Moy each were commended for reaching 30 years at Karnes EC.

The implementation of advanced metering infrastructure is an ongoing project that Bierstedt said should take 15 months to complete. It will eliminate the manual reading of meters throughout the system, improve outage response and restoration times, and increase members’ privacy by reducing meter visits.

Karnes EC also has partnered with the Cooperative Response Center, a nationwide 24/7 call center, to assist with after-hours outage-response needs, Bierstedt reported.

“When you call after regular business hours, your call is immediately routed to the call center, where knowledgeable staff members can address your concerns regarding electrical emergencies,” he said. “I hope you are pleased with this service, and we welcome feedback that will help us improve our after-hours outage-response time.”

▼ Grand prizewinner Kathy Gisler gets a 49-inch HD TV.



## In Memory of Arlon Retzliff

**KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** is saddened to announce the passing of long-time board member Arlon Retzliff on May 2, 2016. Mr. Retzliff was elected to the board June 1, 1978. He served on the board for 38 years, as board president for the past 26 years. He also served on the South Texas Electric Cooperative Board of Directors from 1991 until his death, and as board president for 10 of those years.

Mr. Retzliff was raised in Peggy, on the family farm. He was the oldest of three children. He attended the Fashing School through 10th grade and then Karnes City High School, from which he graduated in 1950. After graduation, he was drafted into the Army, where he was stationed in Detroit, Michigan. After his service, he made his home in Whitsett with his wife Elsie, and their three children.

Mr. Retzliff served on various boards in the community, such as the Three Rivers School Board, McCoy Water Supply Corporation and Our Savior Lutheran Church Council in Three Rivers.

Retzliff was an advocate of cooperative ideals, and his leadership will be greatly missed by all of his cooperative family.



▲ Tony and Patricia Korzekwa win an HEB gift card at the meeting.

### Supporting the Community of Members

For 18 years, KEC has been supporting its community of members through scholarship programs. At this meeting, 10 scholarships totaling \$15,000 were awarded.

“We have a vested interest in the children of our members and are proud to provide them with unique opportunities,” Bierstedt said.

Scholarship recipients were Clayton Dean Akers, Amanda Chesser, Ashlyn Dillard, Matthew Ramon Fanno, Cheyanne Gomez, Blake Janysek, Abigail Jendrusch, Jason Kolodziej, Monica Ann Korzekwa and Hannah Ward.

Nolan Janysek and Gabrielle Quintanilla earned \$900 scholarships each from Texas Electric Cooperatives, which Quintanilla supplemented with a \$1,500 award from the Texas Rural Electric Women’s Association.

Also recognized was Ashleigh Moody, who was chosen to represent the cooperative on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an annual educational trip to Washington, D.C.

Other members got in on the support, too. A total of 60 door prizes, including gift cards, bill credits and electronics, were given out to members just for showing up at the meeting. The grand prize, a 49-inch HD TV, went home with Kathy Gisler.

# Karnes EC Awards Scholarships



**CLAYTON AKERS**  
Poteet High School



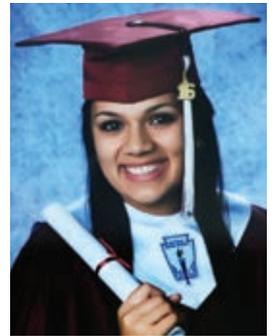
**AMANDA CHESSE**  
Karnes City High School



**ASHLYN DILLARD**  
Charlotte High School



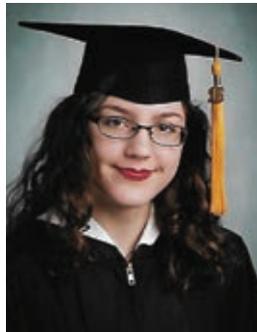
**MATTHEW RAMON FANNO**  
Jourdanton High School



**CHEYANNE GOMEZ**  
Poteet High School



**BLAKE JANYSEK**  
Karnes City High School



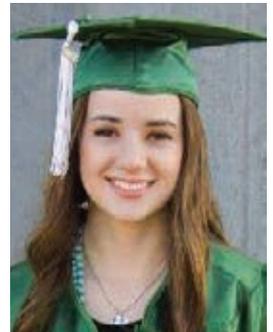
**ABIGAIL JENDRUSCH**  
East Central High School



**JASON KOLODZIEJ**  
Poth High School



**MONICA KORZEKWA**  
Poth High School



**HANNAH WARD**  
Pleasanton High School

**KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS PLEASED** to announce this year's recipients of KEC's scholarship program. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,500, awarded to high school seniors graduating in 2016 in Karnes Electric's service area. To be eligible, a student must be a child of an active member receiving electric service from Karnes Electric Cooperative and demonstrate the desire to further their education.

This year, the following 10 recipients were chosen from a field of highly qualified candidates. This award will assist these students in making their dreams of further education a reality:

**Clayton Akers** Poteet High School  
**Amanda Chesser** Karnes City High School

**Ashlyn Dillard** Charlotte High School  
**Matthew Ramon Fanno** Jourdanton High School  
**Cheyanne Gomez** Poteet High School  
**Blake Janyssek** Karnes City High School  
**Abigail Jendrusch** East Central High School  
**Jason Kolodziej** Poth High School  
**Monica Korzekwa** Poth High School  
**Hannah Ward** Pleasanton High School

Karnes Electric Cooperative wishes to congratulate these students on their accomplishments and for receiving these scholarships. Congratulations and best wishes for the future endeavors of each and every senior in the class of 2016!



ALINA VINCENT PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC | ISTOCK.COM

Putting down the controllers and picking up the dice can help lower your energy bill.

# Why Is My Electric Bill More Than My Neighbor's?

**YOU HAVE A TV, VIDEO GAME SYSTEM, microwave oven, electric range and cooktop, refrigerator/freezer, heat pump and personal computer.** So does your next-door neighbor. So why is your electric bill almost twice as high every month?

Consider this: How well are your walls insulated compared to your neighbor's? Do you take longer, hotter showers? Are you cooking gourmet meals and baking from scratch while your neighbor subsists on quick-heating TV dinners? Does the TV keep you company even when you're not watching it?

No two families live alike. So no two electric bills are the same. Comparing your monthly statement to anyone else's would be like comparing your weekly grocery tabs. Two families of four will never spend exactly the same amount on food because their tastes and habits are different.

Think about the conveniences you might be willing to pay for, even though your neighbor isn't. Are you more comfortable sleeping in an extra-cool house on hot summer nights? Maybe your neighbor's set-back thermostat ekes the temperature up a few degrees at bedtime.

Do members of your family entertain themselves in separate rooms after dinner—watching TV or playing video games—while the folks next door all gather in a family room to play a board game?

Another major factor in today's electric bills is vampire energy loss. Virtually anything that's plugged in is drawing some current—even when it's off. Experts estimate that standby energy drain accounts for 5–10 percent of an average home's annual power usage. A plasma TV, for instance, can use \$165 annually for electric power—when it's off.

Consider unplugging items when not in use or using a power strip to disconnect several items at once. There are also "smart" power strips available that automatically cut power to devices in standby mode.

The way to lower your electric costs is to use energy more efficiently before the bill comes. Contact Karnes Electric Cooperative or visit our website at [karnesec.org](http://karnesec.org) for tips on how to save money by conserving energy around the house.

## Karnes Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 7, Karnes City, TX 78118

### GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Bierstedt

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul T. Brysch Jr., President, *Karnes City*  
Clif Royal, Vice President, *Pleasanton*  
Larry R. Schendel, Secretary-Treasurer, *Runge*  
Frank A. Geyer Jr., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, *Charlotte*  
Martin R. Harris Jr., *Tilden*  
Shirley Hofmann, *Runge*

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES

#### Main Office

1007 N. Highway 123, Karnes City

#### District Office

1824 W. Goodwin St., Pleasanton

Pay your bill, submit meter readings and view your account summary at [karnesec.org](http://karnesec.org).

Karnes Electric Cooperative is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

## Contact Us

For information and outages during office hours

**(830) 780-3952** Karnes City  
**(830) 569-5538** Pleasanton  
**1-888-807-3952** Toll-free

To report a power outage after 5 p.m. and on weekends and holidays

**(830) 780-3952**  
Coy City, Ecleto, Floresville, Gillette, Goliad, Karnes City, Kenedy, Runge, Three Rivers, Tilden and surrounding areas

**(830) 569-5538**  
Charlotte, Christine, Pleasanton, Poteet, Verdi and surrounding areas

**FIND US ON THE WEB**  
[karnesec.org](http://karnesec.org)

# Notice of Capital Credits Allocations

**CAPITAL CREDITS WERE ALLOCATED** in May to the accounts of Karnes Electric Cooperative members for the year 2015.

After the end of each fiscal year, cooperatives must determine what, if any, margins were made during the year and allocate these margins to members' accounts.

Your cooperative's margin is any money left after all its operating costs have been paid. Since members are co-owners of the cooperative, those margins are allocated to their accounts.

These capital credits are not available as either cash or a credit on your electric bill. Return of this amount, in full or part, will be based on the future decision of the board of directors as to whether doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative.

In the meantime, the funds remain invested in the cooperative plant, allocated to each member's account, even though the member may move away from Karnes EC. It is very important that departing members keep the cooperative informed of their current mailing addresses in the future, so they can receive capital credits returns when they are paid.

This will serve as your official notice that KEC capital credits have been allocated.

To calculate your allocation for 2015, multiply your total electric bill amount for 2015 by the following factor that pertains to your particular account:

<b>Farm and Nonfarm (Residential)</b>	.20881032
<b>Irrigation</b>	.24449973
<b>Small Commercial</b>	.19820310
<b>Large Commercial</b>	.08724813
<b>Oil Wells</b>	.25069070
<b>Public Buildings</b>	.22939090

If you have any questions concerning these calculations, feel free to call us at the Karnes EC office at (830) 780-3952.

## Don't Hang Up!

*This is an important message from Karnes EC*

**ONE OF THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE** ways Karnes Electric Cooperative has of providing around-the-clock customer service is to use a contact center. In 2015, Karnes Electric partnered with the Cooperative Response Center, a nationwide 24/7 contact center, to assist with its customer service needs.

CRC provides services primarily to rural electric utilities, including after-hours dispatch and around-the-clock customer care. With locations in Austin, Minnesota; Dunlap, Tennessee; and Abilene, Texas, CRC specializes in call-handling and dispatching line crews, providing service excellence by focusing on the human side of technology.

As a member of Touchstone Energy, Karnes Electric has found that the values of CRC mirror its own as a member-driven company, putting excellent service in the forefront. Nationwide, one in three cooperatives utilizes CRC's services. They have demonstrated consistent professional support for over 6 million member-consumers.

CRC is available to take your calls to Karnes EC after hours. When you call the co-op after regular business hours, your call is immediately routed to the call center, where knowledgeable staff members can address your concerns regarding electrical emergencies. CRC will dispatch crew members and follow up with you, if requested, to ensure that your power has been restored. To avoid delays in getting help to you quickly, it is helpful for you to provide key information including your account number, physical address and, most important, your meter number. All of this information can be found on your billing statement.

Keeping your contact information updated is crucial. If you are calling from a phone number that Karnes EC has on file, your call automatically will sync with your account information, considerably shortening the response time.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

MONDAY, JULY 4

Karnes EC will be closed in observance of the holiday.

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1–November 30

**RESIDENTS OF TEXAS GULF COAST EVACUATION ZONES** should begin now by making an evacuation plan, preparing an emergency kit and learning evacuation routes well in advance.

**If you have special health-care needs, register by dialing 2-1-1.** Gulf Coast residents with special health-care needs (including those who are disabled or medically fragile) who live in evacuation zones and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation should register for assisted transportation in advance by dialing 2-1-1.

**If you need transportation, register with 2-1-1.** If you do not have a car or other vehicle, and you cannot get a ride with friends, neighbors or family, register in advance for assisted transportation by dialing 2-1-1.

**The 2-1-1 transportation assistance registry must be dialed in advance.** It is confidential. Do not wait until a storm is in the Gulf to register for assistance.

Evacuation zone information: If you are interested in registering and you want to find out whether you are living in an evacuation zone, dial 2-1-1 for information.

**Hurricane Preparedness tips online:**

- ▶ Texas Division of Emergency Management website: [txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://txdps.state.tx.us/dem)
- ▶ FEMA website: [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)
- ▶ Red Cross website: [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

DIVISION DE ADMINISTRACION DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

## Directrices para Huracanes

Preparando para la temporada de huracanes durante el 1 de junio hasta el 30 de noviembre

**LOS RESIDENTES DE ZONAS DE EVACUACION** de la Costa del Golfo de Texas deberan empezar ahora ha hacer un plan de evacuación, preparando un equipo de emergencia y aprendiendo bien las rutas de evacuación por adelantado.

**Si usted tiene necesidad especial de asistencia medica, registre llamando al 2-1-1.** Los residentes de la Costa del Golfo con necesidades especiales de asistencia medica (incluyendo los que son incapacitados o medicamento fragil) que viven en zonas de evacuación y no tienen amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación deben registrarse por adelantado para la asistencia de transporte llamando al 2-1-1.

**Si usted necesita transporte, registre llamando al 2-1-1.** Si usted no tiene un coche ni otro tipo de vehiculo, y usted no puede obtener transporte con amigos, vecinos o familiares, registre por adelantado para su traslado e llamanda al 2-1-1.

**El registro de asistencia de transporte se debe hacer por adelantado llamando al 2-1-1.** Es confidencial. No espere hasta que una tormenta este en el Golfo para registrarse para la ayuda.

Informacion sobre la zona de evacuación: Si usted esta interesado en registrase y quiere determinar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación, llame a 2-1-1.

Para mayor informacion sobre la preparacion para la temporada de huracanes en el internet:

- ▶ [listo.gov](http://listo.gov)
- ▶ [cruzrojaamericana.org](http://cruzrojaamericana.org)
- ▶ [txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://txdps.state.tx.us/dem)



## Make the Connection

Shop online, pay bills, download music, watch movies—faster!

**HIGH-SPEED INTERNET FOR THE KARNES COMMUNITY**

Call **800.699.4832** or visit **[www.karnesec.net](http://www.karnesec.net)** to get connected today.

**[karnesec.net](http://karnesec.net)**